SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
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GET AWAY, QUICK!

MY HEAT VISION IS OUT OF CONTROL!

J. Barrata

THE NEW

THERE'S NO STOPPING US NOW.

ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET *KRYPTON*, *KAL-EL* GREW TO MANHOOD ON *EARTH*--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC *SUPER-POWERS*! IN THE CITY OF *METROPOLIS*, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN *CLARK KENT*--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER *EARTH*--AND *BEYOND*--AS...

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

S-4396

COALTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA--THE VEIN OF COAL WHICH BROUGHT THIS SMALL TOWN TO LIFE NOW THREATEN TO BRING ITS DEMISE AS WELL! A FIRE HAS BURNED OUT OF CONTROL FOR MONTHS IN THE MINES BENEATH COALTOWN, TURNING THE GROUND HOT AND THE AIR DEADLY! MOST DEFINITELY, THIS IS...

...A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!

FUNNY HOW I SOMETIMES FIND OUT ABOUT THESE THINGS! IF NOT FOR A BACK-PAGE ITEM IN *THE DAILY PLANET*, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE HEARD OF IT!

A HOT PROBLEM FOR THE MAN OF STEEL, BUT NOT NEARLY AS DANGEROUS AS THE BIZARRE TWIST THAT MAKES HIM THE MAN WITH...

"The ALL-SEARING EYES!"

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NO WAY TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM AT GROUND LEVEL --I MUST GET TO ITS CORE... THE VEIN OF COAL RUNNING UNDER THE TOWN!

GOT TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO SUCK AIR DOWN INTO THE GROUND WITH ME OR I'LL CAUSE A TREMENDOUS FLARE-UP!

MIGHT AS WELL START WITH AN OLD STANDARD TO BLOW OUT THE FIRE--SUPER-BREATH!

HMMM--NOT WORKING! SO MUCH FOR THAT!

I'LL SWITCH TO FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE--HEAT VISION AT MAXIMUM STRENGTH TO BURN OUT THE FUEL!

WHATEVER HE'S DOING, WE'VE GOT TO TRUST HIM... EVEN IF WE ALL GET ? YEOUCH! A HOT FOOT IN THE MEANTIME!

WHILE, ABOVE GROUND IN COALTOWN...

WHAT'S SUPERMAN DOING DOWN THERE? THE GROUND IS GETTING HOTTER!

AND BELOW...

IT'S WORKING! MY HEAT VISION IS DISINTEGRATING PART OF THE COAL VEIN... CREATING A FIREBREAK LIKE THE KIND USED TO FIGHT FOREST FIRES!

FEEL IT? THE GROUND'S GETTING COOLER!

AND THERE GOES SUPERMAN! HE WOULDN'T BE LEAVING IF HE HADN'T DONE THE JOB!

WAY TO GO, SUPES!

SO, MR. MAYOR, I UNDERSTAND COALTOWN IS PLANNING TO HOLD A SUPER-MAN DAY NOW!

THAT'S RIGHT, MS. LANG! WE PLAN TO HONOR THE MAN WHO PUT OUR TOWN BACK ON THE MAP... TO STAY!

THANKS TO THE MAN OF STEEL AND HIS HEAT VISION, COALTOWN WILL BE HELPING WARM OTHER CITIES FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

HEAT VISION... WARMING CITIES... HMMM!

THE MAN YOU ARE LOOKING AT IS PROFESSOR POTTER, ECCENTRIC INVENTOR AND LONGTIME FRIEND TO MANY...

...INCLUDING JIMMY OLSEN...

LOOKING AT THE RAIN WON'T MAKE IT STOP, CLARK, BUT I'LL APPRECIATE ANY HELP IT'LL GIVE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, JIMMY?

I'VE GOT A BIG DATE TONIGHT AT THAT NEW SKY-SCRAPER RESTAURANT, TOP OF METROP-- BUT THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE MUCH OF A *VIEW* IN THIS WEATHER!

WELL, COMPLAIN TO OSCAR ASHER-MAN--*HE'S* THE WEATHERMAN, NOT ME!

LIKE THE SERUM THAT TURNS YOU INTO *ELASTIC LAD!*

AT LEAST THAT *WORKS!* LET'S NOT FORGET HIS MACHINE GUARANTEED TO SQUEEZE 2000 GALLONS OF ONION JUICE IN AN HOUR!

TRUE, BUT I NEED YOU FOR ANOTHER FAVOR! I GOT A CALL FROM PROFESSOR POTTER, PROMISING ME THE "STORY OF THE CENTURY"!

AGAIN?

YOU KNOW THE PROFESSOR, CLARK! ALWAYS SOMETHING NEW!

AND YOU'RE WILLING TO HAND OVER THIS SUREFIRE SCOOP TO ME? WHAT A PAL!

WHAT ARE FRIENDS FOR? THANKS, CLARK... REALLY!

SO, THAT EVENING...

HOW ABOUT THIS? POTTER'S APPARENTLY INVENTED SOMETHING TO KEEP IT FROM RAINING ON HIS HOUSE!

THOUGH, KNOWING THE PROFESSOR, THIS WHOLE RAINSTORM COULD BE *HIS* DOING--AS A WAY TO WASH ALL THE CARS IN METROPOLIS!

GOOD EVENING, PROFESSOR POTTER!

OH, MR. KENT! I WAS EXPECTING JIMMY OLSEN!

HE ASKED ME TO PINCH-HIT!

A SHAME! I WANTED HIM TO USE HIS SIGNAL-WATCH TO BRING *SUPERMAN* HERE!

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FASTER THAN ADVERTISING IN THE DAILY PLANET!

WELL, PERHAPS I CAN HELP! WHAT'S YOUR NEW INVENTION--THE DEVICE THAT KEEPS THE RAIN OFF YOUR HOUSE?

THAT? OH, OF COURSE NOT! I'VE HAD *THAT* FOR WEEKS!

NOW THEN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME *TEA*? AND ARE YOU ABLE TO CONTACT *SUPERMAN*?

YES...

CREAM? SUGAR? LEMON?

...AND MAYBE!

NOW? IN A FEW MINUTES? NEXT TUESDAY?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

SUDDENLY...

KRABLAM!

GOODNESS! IT'S RUINED!

WHAT IS? YOUR NEW INVENTION?

NO...THE TEA!

NOT JUST TEA IN THAT MESS! THE CHEMICALS THAT EXPLODED ARE CREATING A TOXIC GAS!

LOOKS LIKE THE PROFESSOR'S GOING TO GET HIS WISH AFTER ALL!

SUPERMAN?! NOW, THAT'S WHAT I CALL SERVICE!

WHOOSH

OF COURSE I'LL FORGIVE YOU FOR NOT SAYING HELLO,, TILL AFTER YOU'VE EXHALED ALL THOSE FUMES!

HE'S TOO KIND!

LET ME TELL YOU WHY I NEED YOUR HELP! I HAVE A PLAN TO UTILIZE YOUR HEAT VISION TO WARM THE WORLD!

UNFORTUNATELY, MY LAB IS A MESS AT THE MOMENT!

NO PROBLEM, PROFESSOR!

WITH MY SUPER-MEMORY I CAN EASILY RESTORE IT TO THE EXACT CONDITION IT WAS IN *BEFORE* THE EXPLOSION!

IT'S A GOOD THING THE PROFESSOR DOESN'T HAVE A SUPER-MEMORY! HE DOESN'T EVEN SEEM TO NOTICE THAT CLARK IS GONE!

NOW, THEN, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

AS YOU KNOW, OUR ENTIRE PLANET FACES A COMING ENERGY SHORTAGE! IF NOT IN THE 21ST CENTURY, THEN NOT LONG AFTER, OUR SUPPLIES OF OIL, COAL, AND THE LIKE WILL BE EXHAUSTED!

ATOMIC ENERGY CAN BE DANGEROUS, SOLAR ENERGY MAY BE UNRELIABLE -- SO THERE IS A DEFINITE NEED FOR A NEW DIRECTION!

WHY DO I FEEL LIKE A THIRD-GRADER GETTING A LECTURE?

THE ANSWER, I FEEL, IS ONE THAT SHOULD CONCERN US ALL, SINCE EVEN CONSERVATION WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM FOREVER!

AND THAT ANSWER IS RIGHT BEFORE YOUR EYES... OR RATHER, IN THEM! IF I COULD DUPLICATE THE WAY YOUR HEAT VISION WORKS --

--SO TELL ME, HOW DOES IT WORK?

I'M AFRAID I CAN'T TELL YOU, PROFESSOR! I JUST THINK IT ON...

"...AND IT'S BEEN THAT WAY EVER SINCE I WAS A LITTLE BOY THE FIRST TIME IT HAPPENED!"

I LIGHTING YOUR PIPE, PA!

JEHOSHAPHAT! HOW'D YOU DO THAT, SON?

I'VE NEVER REALLY *TRIED* TO FIGURE IT OUT... BUT I'VE BEEN GLAD AT TIMES TO *HAVE* IT!

IMAGINE HOW GLAD THE WHOLE *WORLD* WILL BE IF THEY COULD BENEFIT FROM IT!

NOW THEN, I'VE BUILT THIS HELMET... DESIGNED TO TRACK THE ENERGY IMPULSES IN YOUR BRAIN!

IT'S FILLED WITH RADIOACTIVE ELEMENTS, PHOTOSENSITIVE CHEMICALS, AND SOME-- ER--NIFTY LITTLE TOUCHES OF MY OWN!

IT'S PERFECTLY SAFE, I ASSURE YOU!

OKAY, PROFESSOR, I'LL TELL YOU...

LIKE HIS *TEA*, NO DOUBT!

IF IT'S THE *CREDIT* YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT, REST ASSURED WE'LL *BOTH* BE AWARDED THE *NOBEL PRIZE*!

IMAGINE--A WORLD WITHOUT THE *SMOG* AND POLLUTION CAUSED BY BURNING COAL AND OIL! AND I... WELL, *YOU* AND I... WILL BE THE *ONES* TO THANK!

NOW, THEN, A FEW FINE TUNING ADJUSTMENTS AND WE'LL BE READY TO BEGIN!

I WONDER IF THIS THING WILL DRY MY HAIR, TOO?

READY, SUPERMAN? WE'RE ABOUT TO MAKE HISTORY!

PLEASE TURN ON YOUR HEAT VISION!

SUPERB! THE HELMET IS GLOWING--TRACKING THE VERY ENERGY AS IT MOVES THROUGH YOUR SUPER-BRAIN!

JUST SAY THE WORD AND I'LL TURN IT OFF--

ZEE ZEE ZEEEE

GREAT KRYPTON--JIMMY'S USING HIS SIGNAL-WATCH! IT'S AN URGENT CALL FOR SUPERMAN!

GOT TO FLY, PROFESSOR! LET ME KNOW HOW THIS TURNS OUT!

WAIT! SUPERMAN, I HAVENT TURNED IT OFF YET!

TOO HOT TO HOLD ON TO!

CAN'T WAIT, PROFESSOR! I'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY TO HANDLE!

OHH!

SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY?

KRASHH

MY TELESCOPIC VISION WILL SHOW ME WHAT I'M IN FOR AT THE TOP OF METROP!

ZEE

ZEE ZEE ZEE

GUNMEN--HOLDING UP EVERYONE IN THE RESTAURANT!

I'LL MAKE SURE IT'S THE LAST DINNER THEY SPOIL!

THAT'S IT, SUCKER! GIVE TILL IT HURTS! ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE! HA HA

NATURALLY, JIMMY! A SMOOTH MOVE, SWITCHING ON YOUR SIGNAL-WATCH BEFORE HANDING IT OVER TO THESE CLOWNS!

HIYA, PAL! GOT MY MESSAGE, I SEE!

HEY, WHAT--? THIS IS MELTIN'!?

MY GUN--AND BULLETS--TURNIN' INTO LEAD SOUP!

SOMETHING'S WRONG! I DIDN'T INTEND TO MELT THE WATCH--OR GUN!

GREAT KRYPTON! MY HEAT VISION HAS BEEN ON ALL THIS TIME! THERE ARE BURN MARKS EVERY-WHERE I'VE LOOKED!

AND NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I CAN'T TURN IT OFF!

END OF THE LINE, GUYS! LET'S DROP OUTA HERE!

NO CHOICE BUT TO HANDLE THESE CROOKS WITH MY EYES CLOSED!

THE SMELL OF THE MELTED GUN ENABLES ME TO HOME IN ON NUMBER ONE!

THIS FELLOW DIDN'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH AFTER TELLING THE OTHERS TO CLEAR OUT!

DON'T FORGET THIS ONE!

NOT A CHANCE, JIMMY!

HIS ANXIOUS BREATHING GIVES HIM AWAY!

NOW TO ZERO IN ON THE *FOURTH*--

IIIEEE! NO-- DON'T *JUMP!*

EH?!

RELAX, LADY! I'M NOT JUMPIN' BECAUSE THE PLAN'S GONE WRONG! PARACHUTIN' OUTA HERE *WAS* THE PLAN!

GOT TO *OPEN* MY EYES FOR A SPLIT-SECOND AND GET MY BEARINGS--

--A SNEAK PEEK THAT PROVES DANGEROUS FOR THE FLEEING FELON...

WHAT THE--?!

MY CHUTE'S GONE UP IN SMOKE--I'M GONNA SPLATTER ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK!

HELLLPP!

LAST STOP--A FEW FEET SHORT OF THE PAVEMENT!

CRIPES--I *NEVER* THOUGHT I'D BE GLAD TO GET CAUGHT BY *YOU*, SUPERMAN!

BE SURE TO RECOMMEND IT TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

THAT'S MY PAL.. BUT *WHY* IS HE DOING EVERYTHING WITH HIS EYES SHUT?

HE'S ALL YOURS, OFFICER!

WHAT'S THE CASE, SUPERMAN? TRYING TO PROVE YOU CAN GET THE JOB DONE WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING?

HAPPILY, JIM! I AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH PROFESSOR POTTER'S EXPERIMENT.. ONLY TO HAVE IT GO HAYWIRE!

MY *HEAT VISION* IS IN A PERMANENT *ON* POSITION!

JEEPERS--IT'S TURNED INTO ANOTHER POTTER MARCO!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU COULD USE A SEEING-EYE-PAL! I'LL COME BACK TO POTTER'S WITH YOU!

BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR *DATE*?

SOME DATE--THE HEROD ARE UP HOW SOME JUDY FROM THE METROPOLIS EAGLE!

THAT CHUCK WOULDN'T KNOW AN ACE REPORTER IF SHE FELL OVER HIM!

SHORTLY...

JIMMY, MY BOY! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP ME FIND MR. KENT!

WE'VE GOT OTHER PROBLEMS FIRST, PROFESSOR. SUPERMAN CAN'T TURN OFF HIS HEAT VISION!

WE'LL HAVE TO RUN THE EXPERIMENT THROUGH AND UNDO WHAT YOU'VE DONE, PROFESSOR!

ER...I WISH I COULD, SUPERMAN--BUT WHEN YOU TOSSED ME THE HELMET, IT WAS TOO HOT TO HANDLE!

I DROPPED IT AND IT SMASHED INTO A THOUSAND PIECES! UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S THE ONLY ONE I HAD!

NO BIG PROBLEM, PROFESSOR! I CAN BUILD ANOTHER ONE!

I NEVER SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH THIS RIDICULOUS SCHEME IN THE FIRST PLACE!

SIMPLY DESCRIBE THE PROCEDURE--I KNOW WHERE EVERYTHING IS!

REALLY, SUPERMAN. I CAN DO THE JOB MYSELF.

I CAN FINISH IT IN A WEEK OR SO...IF I DON'T SLEEP!

AH...NO, THANKS! I'LL DO IT AT *SUPER-SPEED!*

ALL RIGHT. IF YOU INSIST! WE START WITH SOME OF MY PREFABRICATED URANIUM GEL...

IN THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS, THE MAN OF STEEL WILL UNDO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY HIS OWN MISGUIDED, MISTAKEN, AND MISSHAPEN...

--PHOSPHOROUS BICARBONATE--

--WHICH IS WHAT WE'RE!

--NO, NO! THAT'S NOT IT! YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE MORE CAREFUL OR WE COULD HAVE ANOTHER ACCIDENT!

FINALLY...

OKAY, PROFESSOR! TIME TO UNDO THE DAMAGE!

KNOW WHEN YOU ARE!

I'LL START BY TURNING THE HELMET TO THE POINT WE WERE AT BEFORE BEING INTERRUPTED!

THERE! NOW OPEN YOUR EYES! AND--?

--MY NIGHT VISION IS STILL ON!

SOMETHING'S WRONG SOMEWHERE, PROFESSOR!

IMPOSSIBLE! YOU DUPLICATED MY PROCEDURE EXACTLY!

EXCEPT FOR THE ONE YOU SAID I WAS USING THE *WRONG* CHEMICAL! MY SUPER-MEMORY RECREATED YOUR LAB AS IT *WAS*--NOT AS YOU *THOUGHT* IT WAS!

YOU USED ONE THING, THINKING IT WAS SOMETHING *ELSE!*

THAT MEANS WE'VE GOT TO TRY AGAIN--AND *AGAIN*--CALCULATING ALL THE POSSIBLE *MISTAKES* YOU MADE ALONG THE WAY UNT'L WE GET IT "*RIGHT*"!

SOUNDS LOGICAL TO *ME*, SUPERMAN!

SHOULD I BE OFFENDED BY YOUR INSINUATION THAT IT WAS *I* WHO ERRED?

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE MAN OF STEEL RECREATED THE HELMET, EACH ATTEMPT ENDING IN FAILURE...

...UNTIL...

AT LAST!

MY HEAT VISION IS OFF!

WAY TO GO, SUPERMAN!

NOW PERHAPS WE CAN FIND WHERE MR. KENT WANDERED OFF TO!

MY TELESCOPIC VISION--WHICH WORKS FINE--SHOWS HIM HOME WATCHING TV!

BY THE WAY, PROFESSOR, WHAT *WAS* THE PURPOSE OF THIS HELMET?

WHY, I WANTED TO CHART SUPERMAN'S HEAT VISION --AND *DUPLICATE* IT TO WARM THE WORLD! HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THE *COST* WOULD BE ASTRONOMICAL!

LIKE GETTING *GOLD* FROM SEA-WATER EH! COSTS TOO MUCH TO BE WORTH DOING!

THEN, AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO GO THROUGH *THIS* AGAIN!

EPILOGUE

CLARK, LOOK WHO'S HERE! PROFESSOR POTTER FELT SORRY THAT YOU MISSED THE STORY ABOUT HIS HEAT-VISION HELMET...

OH?

...SO I'VE BROUGHT ALONG MY *LATEST* INVENTION--AND *YOU* CAN HAVE THE *EXCLUSIVE*!

I APPRECIATE THE OFFER, PROFESSOR, BUT YOUR INVENTIONS ARE A BIT TOO MUCH FOR ME--

--AND FOR SUPERMAN!

THE END

"HOAX NIGHT!"

SUPERMAN

CALLING THE TOWN OF *PEPPERWOOD, NEW JERSEY.* A SLEEPY LITTLE RURAL VILLAGE WOULD BE AN *UNDERSTATEMENT!* MOSTLY, IT *IS* JUST THAT...

...EXCEPT FOR *ONE NIGHT* EACH *YEAR!* THAT NIGHT... *TONIGHT...* PEPPERWOOD BECOMES *POSSESSED*-- WITH THE SPIRIT OF *CELEBRATION!*

TONIGHT, PEPPERWOOD IS HAVING A *PARTY* AND YOU'RE ALL *INVITED!*

I'M CLARK KENT, AND I WILL BE YOUR *GUIDE* ON TONIGHT'S EDITION OF *"WEBB PEOPLE."* STAY TUNED

BEE-YOU!-TIFUL... CLARK! GOT THAT INTRO ON THE *FIRST TAKE!*

I THINK IT *SUITS* MY *TEMPERAMENT*, *JIMMY*, BUT THANKS

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...TO CHOOSE SOMEONE TO PUT A BIG MOAK OVER ON EVERYBODY ELSE IT'S BECOME AN OLD TOWN TRADITION ...INSPIRED BY CARSON NELLES' "NIGHT OF THE WORLDS" BROADCAST!

AND SINCE IT'S DONE ON THE SAME NIGHT EVERY YEAR, PEOPLE EXPECT IT!

SO DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK IT'S REAL?

...NOW, I ONLY KNOW WHAT I FEEL, CHIEF!

THIS BURG'S WEIRD!

STOP WORRYING, OLD CLARK AND I WILL PROTECT YOU FROM THE BOGEYMAN!

MEANWHILE, BACK WITH THE MOBS CREW...

LEMME GIVE YOU A HAND, GUS, WE *PRINT* JOURNALISTS TRAVEL *LIGHT*.

SURE, OLSEN. KEEP *GOADING* ME... IT'S LIKE *WATER* OFF A DUCK'S BACK.

:CHUCKLE!: POOR GUS! THE WAY HE'S *CARRYING* ON--

--YOU'D THINK THERE WAS SOMETHING TO *WORRY* ABOUT...

HUH?!

CLARK! WHAT'S *WRONG*?

I... ER, THOUGHT SOMETHING... SOME-*ONE* TOUCHED ME!

:GROAN!: DON'T *DO* THAT TO ME, MAN!

HA HA!

YOU COULD BE A *GREAT* HODDER, CLARK!

BUT...

...I *DID* FEEL SOMETHING...

...SOMETHING VERY COLD...

...CHILLING!

A BIT LATER.

YOU GUYS OUGHTA GET SOME *GREAT* SHOTS UP THERE AT TOWN HALL! I'LL KEEP IN TOUCH ON THE WALKIE-TALKIE!

OKAY, JIMMY!

THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA, CLARK. I CAN SEE THE *WHOLE* TOWN FROM UP HERE.

GLAD TO SEE YOU'VE *PERKED* UP, GUS. NO MORE NERVES?

NOT A ONE. NOW THAT WE'RE *OFF* THE STREETS!

SO NOW *I'M* THE ONE WHO'S JUMPY!

BUT WHAT *DID* I FEEL BACK THERE?

THE *FIREBELL*! THE SIGNAL IT'S *CLEAR* TO COME OUTSIDE!

I CAN HARDLY *WAIT*!

I HOPE IT'S A *GOOD* ONE THIS YEAR!

JUSTIN PUBLIC

FINISHED UP JUST IN *TIME*! GOOD THING TOO...

... 'CAUSE IT SURE LOOKS LIKE FOLKS ARE *ANXIOUS* TO SEE WHAT I GOT PLANNED FOR THEM...

SO I WON'T KEEP 'EM *WAITING*!

OVER HERE! IT'S STARTING!

OOOOH! I'M SO *EXCITED*!

LOOK! IT'S SOME KIND OF WIZARD!

NAW... IT'S WHAT THEY USED TO CALL A DRUID -- MAGICIANS THAT WORSHIPPED TREES OR SOMETHIN'!

I'VE BEEN GETTING A BAD FEELING ABOUT TONIGHT EVER SINCE THAT... WHAT-EVER TOUCHED ME!

AND NOW THAT I SEE THE HOAX IS "MAGICAL," I LIKE IT EVEN LESS!

SODA

MAYBE I'M BEING PARANOID BUT BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY!

STILL, I DON'T THINK I'M BEING OVERCAUTIOUS...

...THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING IN THE AIR!

AHAHAHA

WAS THAT A SIGH I JUST HEARD?

HOPE YOU'RE GETTING ALL THIS, CLARK! WHERE'S GUS?

HE HAD TO GO BACK TO THE VAN FOR MORE TAPES, JIMMY. BUT I'M GETTING EVERYTHING JUST FINE!

HA HA! LOOK OUT! THE EVIL DRUIDS ARE COMING TO TAKE OVER!

THE REAL DRUIDS COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BETTER --

-- OR WORSE! HA HA!

BELIEVE IN ME, MORTALS... BELIEVEEEE...!

WHAT IS THIS?

IT'S FAR TOO SOPHISTICATED TO BE PART OF THE HOAX!

ELSEWHERE...

DON'T LET THE BAD DRUIDS GETCHA, SON!

HA HA!

FEED ME, HUMANS... GIVE ME YOUR BELIEF!

GREAT KRYPTON! THIS IS NO JOKE! HE'S REAL!

AT LONG LAST... FREEDOM IS MINE!

MANY MOON-CYCLES AGO DID I FIRST PLANT THE SEEDS OF BELIEF...

--ALLOWING THEM TO BLOSSOM ON THIS NIGHT, WHEN THE ENERGIES DO PEAK... WITH THAT SAME BELIEF TO SUSTAIN THEM!

:OOOFFF!:

NOW, JUST HOLD ON--!

AWAY, MORTAL! FOR CENTURIES HAVE I DWELT IN SPIRIT AMONG UNMOVING NATURE!

NOW I WOULD HAVE MY FREEDOM!

UNNH--MAGIC! THE ONE FORCE I'M POWERLESS AGAINST!

THE TOWNSPEOPLE THINK WE'RE PART OF THE FESTIVITIES!

THEY'LL BE HURT IF THEY GET TOO CLOSE...

...SO I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE FIGHT AWAY FROM THEM...

...AND FAST!

LAY NOT YOUR HANDS UPON ME!

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(CONTINUED ON 7TH PAGE FOLLOWING)

MORTALS HAVE *DIED* FOR *LESSER* OFFENSES! AS SHALL *YOU--!*

HUH? I HARDLY *FELT* THAT SPELL--!

MY MAGIC...

...HAS FLED ME?!

DRUIDS WERE *ELEMENTALS*, TAKING THEIR MIGHT FROM THE *EARTH ITSELF...*

...SO WHEN I BROKE HIS CONTACT WITH THE *GROUND*, HE *LOST* THE SOURCE OF HIS *POWERS!*

WEAK.. FEEL SO *WEAK.* *WHY--*

BECAUSE FOLKS DON'T BELIEVE IN *YOU!*

DEEP DOWN, THEY KNOW THIS IS ALL A *HOAX--*

--AND WHEN IT'S *DONE*, THEY'LL *CEASE* TO BELIEVE... AND YOU WILL BE *GONE!*

NO... NO...

NNNOOOOOOOO...

YES!

YOU'RE GOING *BACK* WHERE YOU *CAME FROM--*

--AND WHERE, *HOPEFULLY*, YOU'LL HAVE TO *STAY* THIS TIME!

BAMPF!

WOW! YOU GUYS GOT TO GET THIS! CLARK... YOU *THERE?*

IN A MANNER OF SPEAKING...

... YOU THERE, CLARK? ANSWER ME, CLARK!

NOW WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM SUPER-VENTRILOQUISM---

I READ YOU, JIMMY! WHAT'S GOING ON--?

IT'S OVER NOW! IT WAS ONE NEAT SPECIAL EFFECT!

WE GOT SOME GOOD FOOTAGE HERE! DON'T WORRY IF WE MISS A FEW THINGS, JIMMY!

POOR GUS MISSED EVERYTHING... EVER SINCE I HYPNOTIZED HIM INTO "BECOMING" CLARK KENT, WHILE I TOOK CARE OF THINGS!

FOLKS WILL BE EXPECTING TO FIND A MANNEQUIN AT THAT TREE--

--SO FAR BE IT FROM ME TO DISAPPOINT THEM!

WHOOSH!

H-HEY... THAT WASN'T ONE OF MY DRUIDS!

I DIDN'T PUT ONE HERE... ESPECIALLY WITH SUCH A GOOD SPECIAL EFFECT!

WHERE'D THAT COME FROM...?! WOW... THIS IS WEIRD, AWRIGHT!

KLUNK!

WAS THAT FUN OR WHAT, GUYS? DID YOU GET ALL THAT, GUS?

I...I THINK SO, I MEAN, MY CAMERA WAS GOING...

... SO WHY DON'T I REMEMBER...?

LOOKS LIKE THE PEOPLE OF PEPPERWOOD GOT MORE THAN THEY BARGAINED FOR TONIGHT! THEIR EXPECTED HOAX...

...AND MY "HOAX" ON JIMMY AND THE TOWN!

THE END